

Message Text

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ACTION ACDA-19

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 NEA-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07

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C O N F I D E N T I A L TEHRAN 5564

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: FRENCH-IRANIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT

REF: A. STATE 144763; B. TEHRAN 5520

1. DR. ETEMAD, PRESENT, ATOMIC ENERGY ORGANIZATION OF IRAN, INFORMED SCIATT THAT FRENCH-IRANIAN NUCLEAR AGREEMENT IS IN FACT AN UMBRELLA AGREEMENT, A STATEMENT OF INTENT, EACH PART OF WHICH IS SUBJECT TO MORE DETAILED NEGOTIATION AT A LATER TIME.

2. CERTAIN ASPECTS OF IT, HOWEVER, ARE ALREADY CLEAR:

(1) FRANCE IS TO SUPPLY IRAN WITH FIVE 1,000 NEGAWATT NUCLEAR POWER STATIONS, (2) ENRICHMENT SERVICES FOR THE NECESSARY FUEL WILL PROBABLY ALSO BE PROVIDED BUT THIS REMAINS TO BE NEGOTIATED, (3) THE ATOMIC ENERGY COMMISSION OF FRANCE WILL ASSIST IN TRAINING IRANIAN PERSONNEL TO MAN THE PLANTS, (4) ELECTRICITE DE FRANCE (EDF) WILL SERVE AS A MAJOR CONSULTANT AND AGENT TO THE GOI.

3. THIS RELATIONSHIP WITH EDF IS SEEN BY DR. ETEMAD AS A KEY PART OF THE AGREEMENT. FRANCE HAS THEREBY ACCORDED IRAN A PRIVILEGED AND INTEGRATED POSITION IN EDF'S HUGE NUCLEAR POWER
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DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM, WHICH IS AIMED TO ACHIEVE A COMPLETION

RATE OF SIX PLANTS A YEAR BY 1979. IRAN IS TO PAY FRENCH BUILDERS OF ITS PLANTS THE RATE GOING FOR COMPARABLE FRENCH PLANTS IN THE SAME TIME SPAN. IRANIAN PLANTS ARE TO RECEIVE PRIORITY OVER FRENCH PLANTS IF SLIPPAGE IN THE EDF DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM OCCURS. EDF WILL ALSO CHECK SPECIFICATIONS OF CONTRACTS WITH FRENCH BUILDERS AND WILL PROVIDE EXPERTISE ON TECHNICAL ASPECTS SUCH AS RADIATION HAZARDS.

4. THE FIVE FRENCH-BUILT PLANTS WILL PROBABLY BE POWERED BY PRESSURIZED LIGHT-WATER REACTORS, MOST LIKELY SUPPLIED BY THE FRENCH COMPANY HOLDING A WESTINGHOUSE LICENSE. TIMING IS STILL UNCERTAIN BUT PREVIOUS CONVERSATIONS HAVE LEFT THE IMPRESSION THAT IRAN DOES NOT EXPECT THE FIRST TO BE COMPLETE MUCH BEFORE 1985.

5. NO DECISION HAS BEEN MADE CONCERNING CONSTRUCTION OF RE-PROCESSING, FUEL FABRICATION, OR PLUTONIUM STORAGE FACILITIES IN IRAN, BUT FRANCE WILL ASSIST IRAN IN THEIR ESTABLISHMENT IF IRAN OPTS TO HAVE THEM LATER ON.

6. FRENCH ASSISTANCE TO IRAN IN FAST BREEDER AND NUCLEAR SHIP PROPULSION TECHNOLOGY IS PROMISED, BUT THIS IS STILL SOME YEARS OFF.

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